Claims 14, 37-40, 45-46, 51, 53, 55, 57, 64, 82 and 89 have been amended to replace the term "contain" (or its variants) with the more conventional transitional term "include" (or its variants). No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 63, 64, 88 and 89 are amended to delete the step of receiving and storing. No new matter is added by these amendments.
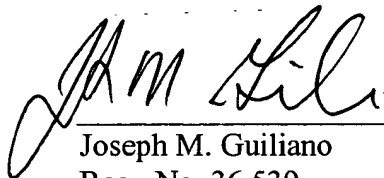
III.   CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the foregoing amendments and allowance of the instant application.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

Date: <u>March 13, 2002</u>

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A

Applicants' Marked-Up Claim Language

3.   (Unchanged)   A method for storing programming at a programming storage station, said storage station having a storage device capable of storing programming, and an automatic control unit for controlling said storage device to store information, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a programming requirement signal;

locating an available programming storage space based on said step of storing a requirement signal; and

storing first programming based on said step of locating an available programming storage space.

4.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 3, wherein said requirement signal designates programming required at a future time, said method further comprising the step of identifying programming.

5.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of identifying information which is not required.

6.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of comparing information stored at one or more of said programming storage station and said automatic control unit to said requirement signal.

7.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

inputting at least some portion of a stored signal to a processor; and

processing said inputted portion to locate said available programming storage space.

8.   (**Three Times Amended**)   A method for storing programming at a programming storage station, said storage station having a storage device capable of storing programming, and an automatic control unit for controlling said storage device to store information, said method comprising the steps of:

(1)   receiving first programming to be transmitted;

(2)   receiving an instruct signal which is effective to accomplish one of:

(a)   effecting a transmitter station to process a programming requirement signal which is effective to enable said transmitter station to locate an available programming storage space in which to store said first programming; and

(b)   effecting a receiver station to process a programming requirement signal which is effective to enable said receiver station to locate an available programming storage space in which to store said first programming;

(3)   receiving a transmitter control signal which operates at said transmitter station to communicate said first programming to a transmitter; and

(4)   storing said instruct signal and said transmitter control signal.

9.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 8, wherein said transmitter station is a remote intermediate transmitter station, said method further comprising the step of transmitting said first programming, said instruct signal, and said transmitter control signal from one or more origination transmitters.

10.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 8, wherein said first programming includes only some of a program, said method further comprising the step of receiving second programming, said second programming being operative to enable one of said transmitter station and said receiver station to complete said program.

11.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 10, wherein said program is a mass medium program.

12.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 10, wherein said program is a computer program.

13.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 10, wherein said transmitter control signal includes said second programming.

14.   **(Amended)**   The method of claim 10, wherein a signal generator is operatively connected to said transmitter, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating a signal [containing] including said first programming to said signal generator; and

causing said signal generator to incorporate a balance of said program into said signal at a time of specific relevance.

15.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 14, wherein a computer is operatively connected to said signal generator, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said second programming to said computer; and

generating said balance of said program.

16.   **(Cancelled.)**

17.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 8, wherein all of said first programming is to be processed at said receiver station and only some of said first programming is to be outputted to a subscriber.

18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of storing second programming, said second programming being operative at said receiver station to perform at least one of processing said first programming and outputting said only some of said first programming.

19. **(Cancelled.)**

20. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said first programming includes an incomplete programming element, and second programming operates to complete said incomplete programming element by processing a class of data, said method further comprising the step of receiving a control signal which designates at least one of said incomplete programming element and said class of data.

21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said class of data designates programming distributor data, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing distributor data.

22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said class of data designates subscriber data, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing subscriber data.

23. **(Cancelled.)**

24. **(Cancelled.)**

25. **(Cancelled.)**

26.   (Cancelled.)

27.   (Cancelled.)

28.   (Cancelled.)

29.   (Cancelled.)

30.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 3, wherein a controller is operatively connected to said first storage station and a control program causes said controller to control one or more peripheral devices, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing said control program.

31.   (Amended)   The method of claim 30, wherein said one or more peripheral devices include at least one of a matrix switch and a digital switch operatively connected to said first storage station, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing an identifier designating information to be communicated by said at least one of said matrix switch and said digital switch.

32.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 30, wherein said storage station includes at least one of (1) a first tape player and (2) a memory operatively connected to a computer.

33.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 30, wherein said first programming is received in an analog television signal.

34.   (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said first programming is received in a digital television signal.

35.   (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of storing said second programming.

36.   (Unchanged) The method of claim 35, wherein said second programming includes at least some of an intermediate generation set and a program instruction set.

37.   (**Amended**)   A method for storing programming at a storage station, said storage station having a plurality of storage locations each capable of storing at least one of television and radio programming; a transfer device capable of communicating said at least one of television and radio programming at least one of to and from each of said plurality of storage locations; and at least one of a processor, controller, and computer for controlling at least one of said plurality of storage locations and said transfer device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming;

selecting at least one of said plurality of storage locations;

transferring said received signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming to said selected at least one of said plurality of storage locations;

storing said received signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming at said selected at least one of said plurality of storage locations; and

storing an intermediate generation set in respect of said at least one of television and radio programming at said storage station in which said intermediate generation set is

computer program information that causes intermediate transmission station apparatus to generate at least one of program instruction set information and command information.

38.   (Amended)   The method of claim 37, wherein said computer is operatively connected to said storage station, said method further comprising the steps of:

communicating said intermediate generation set to said computer; and

modifying said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming in accordance with said intermediate generation set.

39.   (Amended)   The method of claim 38, wherein a signal generator is operatively connected to said storage station and modifies said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming by embedding information into said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming, said method further comprising the steps of:

controlling said storage station to transfer said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming to said signal generator;

generating at least some of said information in accordance with said intermediate generation set; and

communicating said information to said signal generator.

40.   (Amended)   The method of claim 39, wherein a transmitter is operatively connected to said signal generator, said method further comprising the step of transmitting said modified signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming.

41.   (Cancelled.)

42.　(Unchanged)　The method of claim 38, wherein said at least one of television and radio programming is modified by combining at least one of video and audio into said at least one of television and radio programming.

43.　(Cancelled.)

44.　(Cancelled.)

45.　(Amended)　The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of embedding said intermediate generation set in said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming.

46.　(Amended)　The method of claim 45, where said intermediate generation set is embedded in said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming before said signal [containing] including said at least one of television and radio programming is stored.

47.　(Cancelled.)

48.　(Cancelled.)

49.　(Cancelled.)

50.　(Cancelled.)

51.　(Amended)　A method of storing information at a storage station, said storage station including at least one storage location capable of storing programming, a

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receiver for receiving at least audio from a remote transmitter station, a transfer device capable of communicating said programming at least one of to and from said at least one storage location, and a processor capable of controlling at least one of said at least one storage location and said transfer device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one signal [containing] including said programming, a first portion of said programming to be outputted for a duration of time, only some of said duration of time including a time interval of specific relevance, a second portion of said programming including audio, at least said second portion of said at least one signal being received from said remote transmitter station;

communicating said received at least one signal to said at least one storage location;

storing said first and second portions of said programming at said at least one storage location; and

storing at least one of computer code and data at said storage station, said at least one of computer code and data being operative at an ultimate receiver station to select said audio and cause an audio output device to output said audio during said time interval of specific relevance.

52.   (Amended)   The method of claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

communicating said at least one of said computer code and said data to a computer; and

under control of said computer, modifying at least one of said programming and said at least one signal in accordance with said at least one of said computer code and said data.

53.   (Amended)   The method of claim 52, wherein said signal [containing] including said programming is modified by embedding information in said signal.

54.　(Unchanged)　The method of claim 52, wherein said programming is modified by combining audio into said programming.

55.　**(Amended)**　A method of storing information at a storage station, said storage station including at least one storage location capable of storing programming, a receiver for receiving at least audio from a remote transmitter station, a transfer device capable of communicating said programming at least one of to and from said at least one storage location, and a processor capable of controlling at least one of said at least one storage location and said transfer device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one signal [containing] including said programming, a first portion of said programming including audio, a first part of said audio to be outputted at an ultimate receiver station before a time interval of specific relevance, a second part of said audio to be outputted at said ultimate receiver station after said time interval of specific relevance, at least a second portion of said at least one signal including video, at least said first portion of said signal being received from said remote transmitter station;

communicating said received at least one signal to said at least one storage location;

storing said first and second portions of said programming at said at least one storage location; and

storing at said storage station at least one processor instruction which is effective to modify said at least one signal for transmission to said ultimate receiver station.

56.　(Unchanged)　The method of claim 55, wherein said at least one processor instruction is effective to modify said programming.

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57.   (**Amended**)   A method of enabling a storage device to deliver programming, said storage device having at least one storage location capable of storing at least one of video and audio programming, a transfer device capable of communicating said at least one of video and audio programming at least one of to and from said at least one storage location, and a processor capable of controlling at least one of said transfer device and said at least one storage location, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first signal, said first signal [containing] including said at least one of video and audio programming, said at least one of video and audio programming having an associated identification datum and a programming element which is incomplete as regards a class of data;

communicating said first signal to said at least one storage location;

storing said first signal at said at least one storage location; and

storing at least one of an intermediate generation set and a program instruction set at said storage device, said at least one of an intermediate generation set and a program instruction set including at least some portion of a control signal which designates at least one of said incomplete programming element and said class of data and which upon command is operative to complete said incomplete programming element, whereby said device is enabled to deliver a complete programming presentation in response to a user instruction to play.

58.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 57, wherein said class of data designates programming distributor data, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing distributor data.

59.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 57, wherein said class of data designates subscriber data, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing subscriber data.

60.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 57, wherein said control signal is to comprise a series or stream of sequentially transmitted control instructions, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing in said control signal two or more control instructions in a specific order with information designating a time period.

61.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 60, wherein said series or stream of sequentially transmitted control instructions is to be included in a message stream, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing instructions which are effective to instruct said processor to process at least one message of said message stream.

62.   **(Amended)**   The method of claim 57, wherein said <u>at least</u> one of an intermediate generation set and a program instruction set operates to generate a control signal by processing information of said class of data, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing generally applicable information of said control signal.

63.   **(Amended)**   The method of claim 62, wherein said generally applicable information of said control signal is to be included in machine language code[, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing at least one of assembly language code and processor code to be assembled].

64.   **(Amended)**   The method of claim 62, wherein said generally applicable information of said control signal includes higher language code and said intermediate generation set operates to generate said control signal by completing a module [containing] <u>including</u> said higher language code[, said method further comprising the

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step of receiving and storing instructions which operate to compile or link said module or said higher language code].

65.   (Cancelled.)

66.   (Cancelled.)

67.   (Cancelled.)

68.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 57, wherein a control program causes a controller operatively connected to said storage device to control one or more peripheral devices, said method further comprising the step of receiving and storing said control program.

69.   (Cancelled.)

70.   (Cancelled.)

71.   (Cancelled.)

72.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 71, further comprising the steps of:
transmitting said intermediate generation set from a first of said plurality of transmitter stations; and
transmitting said program instruction set from a second of said plurality of transmitter stations.

73.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 57, wherein said storage device is located at an intermediate transmitter station, said method further comprising the step of transmitting said first signal and at least one of said program instruction set and a command generated in accordance with said intermediate generation set.

74.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 57, wherein said storage device is located at an ultimate receiver station.

75.   **(Cancelled.)**

76.   **(Cancelled.)**

77.   **(Cancelled.)**

78.   **(Cancelled.)**

79.   **(Cancelled.)**

80.   **(Cancelled.)**

81.   **(Cancelled.)**

82.   **(Amended)**   A method of enabling a mass medium programming storage device to store and deliver mass medium programming, said storage device comprising at least one storage location capable of storing said mass medium programming, a transmission device capable of communicating said mass medium programming <u>at least</u> one of to and from said at least one storage location, and a

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processor capable of controlling <u>at least</u> one of said transmission device and said at least one storage location to <u>at least</u> one of receive, store, and communicate said mass medium programming, comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal [containing] <u>including</u> said mass medium programming, said mass medium programming having an identification datum and a programming element which is incomplete regarding a class of data;

communicating said signal [containing] <u>including</u> said mass medium programming to said at least one storage location;

storing said signal [containing] <u>including</u> said mass medium programming at said at least one storage location; and

storing <u>at least</u> one of an intermediate generation set and a program instruction set at said mass medium programming storage device, said <u>at least</u> one of an intermediate generation set and a program instruction set including at least some portion of a control signal which designates at least one of said incomplete programming element and said class of data operative to complete said incomplete programming element,

whereby said storage device is enabled to deliver a complete programming presentation in response to a user instruction.

83.   (Unchanged) The method of claim 82, wherein said class of data designates programming distributor data, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing said programming distributor data.

84.   (Unchanged) The method of claim 82, wherein said class of data designates subscriber data, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing said subscriber data.

85.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 82, wherein said control signal comprises sequentially transmitted control instructions, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and embedding in said control signal at least two control instructions in a specific order with information designating a time period.

86.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 85, wherein said sequentially transmitted control instructions comprise a message stream, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing instructions which are effective to instruct said processor to process at least one message of said message stream.

87.   (Amended)   The method of claim 82, wherein said at least one of said intermediate generation set and said program instruction set operates to generate said control signal by processing information of said class of data, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing information regarding said control signal.

88.   (Amended)   The method of claim 87, wherein said generally applicable information of said control signal is at least some of a processor instruction[, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing one of assembly language code and a signal word to be assembled].

89.   (Amended)   The method of claim 87, wherein said generally applicable information of said control signal is higher language code and said [oneof] at least one of said intermediate generation set and said program instruction set operates to generate said

control signal by completing a module [containing] including said higher language code[,

said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing instructions which operate to perform one of the functions

of compiling and linking said one of said module and said higher language code].

90.   **(Cancelled.)**

91.   **(Cancelled.)**

92.   **(Cancelled.)**

93.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 82, wherein a control program causes

a controller operatively connected to said storage device to control at least one peripheral

device, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving and storing said control program.

94.   **(Cancelled.)**